

Couch Film Festival Spring 2023 Edition

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Best of the Festival

BEST FILM of the FESTIVAL: *The Smile* - Dir. by Erik van Schaaik (Netherlands)

1st Runner Up for Best Film: *Stationheads* - Dir. by Stu Gamble (Hungary)

2nd Runner Up for Best Film: *Interviewing Lance Masterson* - Dir. by Sohaila Lindheim (Ireland)

Audience Choice: *The Smile* - Dir. by Erik van Schaaik (Netherlands)

Honourable Mentions:

The King of Christmas - Dir. by Jacob Hightower (USA)

The Master Of Ashes - Dir. by Omar Jamal Aljaber (Jordan)

Megaville - After Hours - Dir. by Tim Cürliş, Christian Skibinski (Germany)

Riding Down a Moon Bean - Dir. by Bobby Lacer (USA)

Category Awards

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Best 15-Second Story

Nominees for Best 15-Second Story

The Walk-Up - Dir. by Teresa Moore (USA)

Reach For The Dead - Dir. by Kevin Lucero Less (USA)

Joyful_ - Dir. by Lidia Napoli

1:00-5:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Animation

The Stranger - Dir. by Maria Niazmand, Mandana Niazmand (Iran)

The Space Between Us - Dir. by Julianne Martin (USA)

Emergence - Dir. by Nick Pascoal (USA)

New Life - Dir. by Mark Russel Bernard (Australia)

Nominees for Best Art Film

A Carousel in the Rain - Dir. by Jaro Jääskeläinen (Finland)
No Invasion - Dir. by Dwayne Jahn (Germany)
Posidonies - Dir. by Antis Iakovou, Evie Demetriou (Cyprus)

Nominees for Best Comedy

Watercraft - Dir. by Gabriel Auclair-Doucet (Canada)
Unmovated - Dir. by Ian Johnston (Canada)
Rearranged - Dir. by Heather Hillstrom (USA)
The Adventures Of Marg - New Wheels - Dir. by Chloë Clune (Canada)
The Drop of Champagne - Dir. by Gautier Piton (France)
Man of the Match - Dir. by Umesh Thamoatham (Canada)
This Won't End Well - Dir. by Eric Cerisano (Canada)

Nominees for Best Documentary

Alla Prima - Dir. by Madison Kuhns (USA)
Hope - Dir. by Roxanne Wright (Canada)
When I Met Sangre Negra - Dir. by Miguel Rueda (USA)
Building a Community - Dir. by Matthew James Biendara (USA)

Nominees for Best Drama

Cheese - Dir. by Nadya Todorova (Bulgaria)
A New Strong Spring - Dir. by Luciano D. Urietti, Luca G. Gabriele (Italy)
Sisterly Love - Dir. by Thea Balich, Tom Knight (UK)
Birds and Nests - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Argentina)
The Best Day - Dir. by Isla McKenna (USA)

Nominees for Best Experimental International

Assis (Seated) - Dir. by Pierre Yves Clouin (France)
The Dark Box - Dir. by Selina Leone, David Valverde (Spain)
A Carousel in the Rain - Dir. by Jaro Jääskeläinen (Finland)

Nominees for Best Experimental North America

Nothing to See Here - Dir. by Marc Ignacio (Canada)
Walking in the Path of Nature Man - Dir. by Nolan Schmidt (USA)
Shitfaced - Dir. by Jack E.K. Collier (USA)
Excerpt From Home Movie - Dir. by Eva Nel Brettrager (USA)

Nominees for Best Horror

Baby Cam - Dir. by Dave Heron (UK)
You Have My Heart - Dir. by Rik Langan (UK)
Pygmalion - Dir. by Nicholas Bromund (USA)

Nominees for Best Music Video

Only Eden - Dir. by Andrea Jean Plamondon (USA)

Specimen - Dir. by Didier Mulleras (France)
I Miss My Baby - Dir. by Jordan Newkirk (USA)
Dümscrolt - Dir. by Jerome Kurtenbach (USA)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

The Tower - Dir. by Sean Breathnach (Ireland)
Kaine - Dir. by Steven Fox (USA)
A Little Light - Dir. by Tammy Boyer (Canada)

Nominees for Best One Minute Film

A Scent of Red - Dir. by Felicia E. (USA)
Nest Delirium - Dir. by Jacob Luke (Canada)
Categorical Betrayal - Dir. by Jeff Vande Zande (USA)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural

Bunnygirls Meet The Void - Dir. by Chelle Ann Sarah Higgins (Canada)
SMRT Services - Dir. by Jeff Vande Zande (USA)
Happyverse - Dir. by Benjamin Buckley (Canada)
Conjecture - Dir. by Manuel Hai (Colombia)

Nominees for Best Student Film

Professional Intern - Dir. by Stokes Harvey (USA)
Two Stoners - John Angell Grant (USA)
You Should See Other People - Dir. by Uriel Cruz (USA)

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Chris A. Iraheta - The Tone of Alone (USA)
Nick Pascoal - Emergence (USA)
Stokes Harvey - Professional Intern (USA)

Nominees for Best Actor

James Boutcher - The Grave Apology (Canada)
Dallas Mahan - Professional Intern (USA)
Gautier Piton - The Drop of Champagne (France)

Nominees for Best Actress

Chloë Clune - The Adventures Of Marg - New Wheels (Canada)
Ashna Sharan - Rearranged (USA)
Claudia Côté - What Do Ghosts Dream Of? (Canada)

Nominees for Best Cast

Rearranged - Dir. by Heather Hillstrom (USA)
What Do Ghosts Dream Of? - Dir. by Jules Nerestant (Canada)
Bunnygirls Meet The Void - Dir. by Chelle Ann Sarah Higgins (Canada)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Evangelos Desborough - Watercraft (Canada)

Hristin - Cheese (Bulgaria)

Steven Fox - Kaine (USA)

Nominees for Best Writer

Nadya Todorova - Cheese (Bulgaria)

Roxanne Wright - Hope (Canada)

Austyn Van de Kamp - Man of the Match (Canada)

Nominees for Best Director

Olivier Roca - Chef's (France)

Christopher Francis - Only A Rat (USA)

Didier Mulleras - Specimen (France)

5:01-20:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Animation

Advanced Delvonics - Dir. by M. Taylor Hensley (USA)

Letters to Parkkimäentie - Dir. by Mika Koskinen (Finland)

The Orange Horse - Dir. by Joshua Heineman (USA)

out of control - Dir. by bellopropello (Switzerland)

Tears of Metal - Dir. by Etienne Adam (Canada)

Will Ye No Come Back Again? - Dir. by Deb Ethier (Canada)

Nominees for Best Comedy Canada

Bake Sale - Dir. by Kirby Sloan, Ben Fudge (Canada)

The Midnight Retaliator - Dir. by Peter Hajdu (Canada)

Down To Earth - Dir. by Ryan McNeill (Canada)

The Bauvilliers - Dir. by Abhishek Majumder (Canada)

Nominees for Best Comedy International

Not Quite Done? - Dir. by David L. Bertman (USA)

In The Loop - Dir. by George Butterworth (Australia)

Loose Change: A Memoir of Childhood - Dir. by Andrew Bateman (USA)

Half - Dir. by A.J. Ogilvie (USA)

Just a Kiss - Dir. by Brandon Alexander Cela (USA)

Men in Cars - Dir. by Molly Vernon (USA)

The Bots Will Get It - Dir. by Adam P. Murphy (USA)

Sticks and Stones - Dir. by Jason Kelly Lee (USA)

Nominees for Best Documentary North America

Trapped In The Hood Documentary Series Episode 1 - Dir. by Robert Boyd, Lucinda Boyd (USA)

What Did You Say? - Dir. by Oscar Li (USA)

Her Drive - Dir. by Avery Huitikka Wilton (Canada)

Prophecy in Action - Names Hidden in Warnings - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)

Prophecy in Action - Nostradamus on Turkey Quake - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)

Nominees for Best Documentary International

The Future in Our Hands - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)

Celebrating Chinese New Year - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)

Robert Stewart - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)

Inside Talk II - Dir. by Parker Brothers (UK)

Shiringa: Amazon White Gold - Dir. by Oscar Akamine, Joseph Neyra (Peru)

The Hyper & Hope of Argentina - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Argentina)

Stuck with Virus on Board - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Falkland Islands, Malvinas)

Nominees for Best Drama North America

Disregard - Dir. by Mike Messier (USA)

Solitariness - Dir. by Melissa Bronski, Shanna Riker (USA)

The Bridge - Dir. by Arya Ashoori (Canada)

The Aftermath - Dir. by Callie Carpinteri (USA)

Enter the Room - Dir. by Harry Waldman (USA)

The Breakdown - Dir. by Clarence Williams IV (USA)

Ginny's Enterprise - Dir. by Suzanne Marie Moreau (Canada)

Apart - Dir. by Pierre Marais (USA)

The Sea Never Forgets - Dir. by Thomas Pace (USA)

Nominees for Best Drama International

Footsteps - Dir. by Hamed Bahrami (Iran)

The Forbidden Fruit - Dir. by Vlad F. Dumea, Sebastian Andro (Romania)

Horizon - Dir. by Daniele De Muro (Italy)

Náiaide - Dir. by Rogerio Troiani Barbosa (Brazil)

The Favor - Dir. by Henry Bruno (France)

Arrivederci Paris - Dir. by Louis Salvatore Bellanti (France)

The Voice of My Suspect - Dir. by Christiaan Ackermann (South Africa)

Starry Eyed - Dir. by Jessica Orcsik (Australia)

Last Dance - Dir. by Ezequiel Casamada Arnella (Spain)

Before the Dreams - Dir. by Şehmus Özek (Turkey)

Time to Fly - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Argentina)

Nominees for Best Experimental

In Other Words, In Other Images - Appropriate(d) - Dir. by Susan Kouguell (USA)

Egress - Dir. by Ethan Vale (Australia)

Lacrime di Vento - Dir. by Damiano Rossi (Italy)

The Secret History of Tardigrades in Early Soviet Cinema - Dir. by Jeffrey Turboff (USA)
Book X - Dir. by Daniel Krastek (USA)
AnonyMonster - Dir. by Tony Gaud (USA)

Nominees for Best Horror

Incognizance - Dir. by James Lessard (Canada)
The Soul of the Lake - Dir. by Mathieu Chéreau (USA)
Special Broadcast: A SkinWalker Story - Dir. by Nick Luna (USA)
Baby Shifter - Dir. by MJ Dixon (UK)
Noman - Dir. by Matt Robb (USA)
Doll in the Dark - Dir. by Grey Rich (USA)
The Bauvilliers - Dir. by Abhishek Majumder (Canada)
Temple - Dir. by Shahab Saeidi (Canada)
And Now Our Next Guest... - Dir. by Gee Stewart (Canada)
Irritación - Dir. by Diogo dos Santos Oliveira (Portugal)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural

The Flare - Dir. by James Boutcher (Canada)
Life REBORN - Dir. by Marcel Barragán (Panama)
Kaliderson Melody - Les Dormeurs de Samhain - Dir. by Laurent Combaz (France)
The R Word - Dir. by Michael Riley (Australia)
The Abracadabrante Family - Dir. by Nancy Morin (Canada)
Oblivious - Dir. by Rafael Star (Australia)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Dóttir - Dir. by Steven Fox (USA)
Sunny - Dir. by Ramin Sohrab (USA)
Glovebox - Dir. by Joseph Matarrese, Phillip Matarrese (USA)
Shotgun - Dir. by Ross Langill (Canada)
Don't Mess With Levinski 60 - Dir. by Tamar Schwarz (Israel)
The Long Wait - Dir. by Alizay Rizwan (UAE)
The Cadaver - Dir. by Volkan Özgümüş (Turkey)

Nominees for Best Student Film International

First Snow - Dir. by Anton Sytnik (Ukraine)
Ransom Video - Dir. by Michael Riley (Australia)
Raphaëlle - Dir. by Eléonore Aguilon (France)
Last Year - Dir. by Jack William Harold Twell (UK)
Let Go - Dir. by Chia Chi Huang (Taiwan)

Nominees for Best Student Film North America

Mitchell and Marnie - Dir. by Ben Frondorf (USA)
Suburbia Swamp - Dir. by Nicole Flores (USA)
King of the Ducks - Dir. by Daniel Martinez Perez (Canada)

Forwards - Dir. by Sebastian Eguiarte (Canada)

Be Your Feminine - Dir. by Benny Berry-Wolfenden (Canada)

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Rebecca Duran - Radio Silence (USA)

Carlos Da Costa - Wake Up (UK)

Dana Blouin - Khao Yai National Park: Thailand's First (Thailand)

Raphael Kichenama - ORIGINE-Z (France)

Stefan Langer - Haircut (USA)

Nominees for Best Actor

Ivaylo Grancharov - Mr. Self (Bulgaria)

Marcus Jahn - Spaceman (USA)

Massimiliano Nugnes - The Forbidden Fruit (Romania)

Peter Mastne - Enter the Room (USA)

Kevin Mounce - Thinking of You (USA)

Marcel Barragán - Life REBORN (Panama)

Nominees for Best Actress

Nikki Apostolidis - The Cost Of Money (USA)

Adelia Nazarchuk - First Snow (Ukraine)

Justiene Lindholm - The Bridge (Canada)

Summer Marie Thomas - The Breakdown (USA)

Emily Murphy - And Now Our Next Guest... (Canada)

Hannah Lawrence - Joyriders (USA)

Nominees for Best Cast

Solitarity - Dir. by Melissa Bronski, Shanna Riker (USA)

Sympathy For The

Devil - Dir. by Corbin Eaton, Michael Bentley (USA)

The Immortals - Dir. by Ross Langill (Canada)

The Mighty Beam! - Dir. by Adam Reborá (USA)

A Bag Full of Loot - Dir. by David J. McDonald (Canada)

Santa Ruins Christmas - Dir. by David Nguyen (Canada)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Marcus Armstrong - The Bridge (Canada)

Daniele De Muro - Horizon (Italy)

Jodi Savitz - Solitarity (USA)

Şerban Dinescu - The Forbidden Fruit (Romania)

Jonathan Salazar - Glovebox (USA)

Stu Gamble - Stationheads (Hungary)

Nominees for Best Writer

Liz Whitmere - Up To Here (Canada)
Rik Langan - The Wait (UK)
Natalia Cricri - Two Dollars (Australia)
Sabrina Knappett - Santa Ruins Christmas (Canada)
Gary Cohoe - Hero Squad (Canada)
Alvin Sloan - The Logo (USA)

Nominees for Best Director

Anne Mueller - Cooking with Kyssara (Canada)
Kirby Sloan, Ben Fudge - Bake Sale (Canada)
Marion Battaglia - The INsiders (UAE)
Shanna Riker - Spaceman (USA)
David Nguyen - Santa Ruins Christmas (Canada)
Tamar Schwarz - Don't Mess With Levinski 60 (Israel)

20:01-45:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Comedy

Going Nowhere (Pilot Episode) - Dir. by George Walker (UK)
Small Cars - Dir. by Andrei Egorov (Belarus)
Conspiracy Cases: The Wasp Woman - Dir. by Jeffrey Paul Agosta (USA)

Nominees for Best Documentary

Growing with Our Family Tree - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)
Decode the Mystery - A YouTuber Turned Filmmaker - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)
Nudo - Dir. by Gabriele Donati (Italy)

Nominees for Best Drama

Apples, Oranges, Lemons & Limes - Dir. by Pat Mitchell (USA)
The American Dream - Dir. by Norbert Valade (France)
Odd Birds - Dir. by Georg Arne Kästle, Valentin Marian Bolte (Germany)
Organic Dosti - Dir. by Sanjay Rawal (India)
Mampatti - Dir. by Srikrishnan Narayanaswami (India)
Shashthi - Dir. by Jude Peter Damian (India)

Nominees for Best Horror

The Prowler - Dir. by Tanguy Pochoy (France)
Dark Web - Dir. by Tyler Appian (USA)
Fish - Dir. by Mike J. McAllister (USA)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

The Million Dollar Game - Dir. by Adam Michael (USA)
Valedictory - Dir. by Graeme James Williamson (UK)

The Lazarus Game - Dir. by Kate Ward (USA)
LSD : The William Brake's Movie - Dir. by Julien Tenfiche (France)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy

House of Ra: The Legend of Reo - Dir. by Antoine M. Dillard (USA)
Conspiracy Cases: The Wasp Woman - Dir. by Jeffrey Paul Agosta (USA)
Carolina Shag - Dir. by Adam Newman (USA)

Nominees for Best Actor

Sylvain Pierre - LSD : The William Brake's Movie (France)
Sam Strickland - Going Nowhere (Pilot Episode) (UK)
Cal Waldau - Apples, Oranges, Lemons & Limes (USA)

Nominees for Best Actress

Cat Yudain - The Million Dollar Game (USA)
Naomi St.Hill - House of Ra: The Legend of Reo (USA)
Skye Marie Sena - Apples, Oranges, Lemons & Limes (USA)

Nominees for Best Cast

Credits Among Friends - Dir. by Alexis Ramirez (USA)
Organic Dosti - Dir. by Sanjay Rawal (India)
Odd Birds - Dir. by Georg Arne Kästle, Valentin Marian Bolte (Germany)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Franck Brett - The Prowler (France)
Igbal Ashmi - Mampatti (India)
Gabriele Donati - Nudo (Italy)

Nominees for Best Writer

Adam Michael - The Million Dollar Game (USA)
Tyler Appian - Dark Web (USA)
Michael Obiora - Joe Kerr: Laughter Is Therapy (UK)

Nominees for Best Director

Ken'ichi Kurokawa - Homecoming Hitchhike (Japan)
Graeme James Williamson - Valedictory (UK)
Adam Newman - Carolina Shag (USA)

45:01-120 Minutes

Nominees for Best Action

Lion of Judah Legacy Movie - Dir. by June Daguiso (USA)
Piercing Wounds - Dir. by Andrew Jacob Brown (USA)

The Full Moon Fathers - Dir. by Sean Cranston (USA)
Alex Fernandez's Sasha 2 - Dir. by Alex Fernandez (USA)

Nominees for Best Drama

Chaappakuthu - Dir. by Ajaish Sudhakaran, Mahesh Manoharan (India)
Antique Clock, Copper Basin and Cat - Dir. by Mingxuan Wang (China)
Rose to Crown - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)
Rage, Fear, Love - Dir. by Charles Stanley (USA)
This Couch is Too Big for My Trunk - Dir. by Victor Toth (Brazil)

Nominees for Best Documentary

Mekong Apocalypse - Dir. by Michael Buckley (Canada)
Cruising with Virus on Board - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (New Zealand)
Dad Rock - Dir. by Eshani Chakrabarti (USA)
Beloved Youth of Many Days: Stories about Mlimani Park Orchestra - Dir. by Frank Gunderson (USA)
And Outside Life Goes On - Dir. by Daniel Maurer (Switzerland)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Sin Apple - Dir. by Kenya Cagle (USA)
The Woman With The Cough - Dir. by Alex George (USA)
Guardian - Dir. by Kayser Foyz (UK)
Summer of the Wolf - Dir. by Nicki Harris (USA)

Nominees for Best Actor

Frank Cisco Anderson - Lion of Judah Legacy Movie (USA)
Gabriel Guaraciaba - This Couch is Too Big for My Trunk (Brazil)
Pedro Garutti - This Couch is Too Big for My Trunk (Brazil)

Nominees for Best Actress

Manya Muse - Natura (France)
Anna Anderson - Summer of the Wolf (USA)
Geeta Gerardo Viji - Guardian (UK)

Nominees for Best Cast

The Full Moon Fathers - Dir. by Sean Cranston (USA)
Rage, Fear, Love - Dir. by Charles Stanley (USA)
Happy Ending - Dir. by Akira Iwamatsu (Japan)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Pierre Pascalie - Natura (France)
Gamael Thercio - Summer of the Wolf (USA)
Jim Powers - The Full Moon Fathers (USA)

Nominees for Best Writer

Andrew Jacob Brown - Piercing Wounds (USA)

Alex George - The Woman With The Cough (USA)

Ajaish Sudhakaran, Mahesh Manoharan - Chaappakuthu (India)

Nominees for Best Director

Akira Iwamatsu - Happy Ending (Japan)

Frank Gunderson - Stories About Mlimani Park Orchestra (USA)

Mingxuan Wang - Antique Clock, Copper Basin and Cat (China)